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UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1960

The Honorable Allen Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Allen:

I appreciate your comments in answer to my letter of April 1, 1960, concerning the publication of technical data of direct military value to our possible enemies.

As I believe you know, it has always been my view that the type and quantity of information given a security classification should be held to the absolute minimum and resorted to only when there is a direct national purpose to be served.

Too often the withholding of information is regarded by a journalist as a challenge and when information comes into his possession, he feels perfectly free to use it even though his source may not have been authorized to disclose it.

I think under these circumstances we should give some thought to the possibility of a conference with the editors and publishers of the nation's technical periodicals to discuss these problems with them and to invite them to assume a greater share in the responsibility of determining whether particular information should be published. I strongly believe that there is much greater chance of success through such a voluntary cooperative effort than through an attempt on the part of the Government to control further the dissemination of such information.

Sincerely yours,

AS

A. S. Mike Monroney

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Completed*)